



# DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Federal Disaster Loans for  
Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

U. S. Small Business Administration  
P. O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853

Disaster Area 4 Office  
(800) 488-5323 (916) 566-7240

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Release Date: December 8, 2003

## *Press Release*

### ***Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses***

**Sacramento, CA** – “Small businesses in the Oregon counties of **Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Union, Wallowa, Wasco and Wheeler**; the Idaho counties of **Adams and Washington**; and the Washington county of **Klickitat** are eligible to apply for low interest disaster loans to offset economic losses because of reduced revenue to farmers and ranchers caused by drought conditions beginning October 1, 2001 in Baker and Gilliam Counties in Oregon” announced Alfred E. Judd, Disaster Area Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

“Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only, and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship,” Judd said.

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses, which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Ann M. Veneman declared this disaster at the request of Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary’s declaration. However, in drought disasters, nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **July 6, 2004**.

Information and application forms may be obtained by writing to **SBA at P.O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853-4795** or by calling **(800) 488-5323**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 566-7388.

*In the wake of disasters, SBA serves as America’s disaster bank. Since 1953, SBA has approved over 1.5 million disaster loans for \$30 billion. For more information visit SBA’s Web site at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster). In addition, the SBA, in co-sponsorship with Staples, has introduced an online newsletter **SBA Solutions**. For a free subscription, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list>, and select New **SBA Solutions Newsletter**.*

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